

# HOSEA

RETURN TO THE LORD



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- \* Hosea means "Salvation"
- \* Written during the early years of Hezekiah
- \* Hosea is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible
- \* He was the
  - \* Son of Beri. (1:1)
  - \* Husband of Gomer. (1:3)
  - \* Father of two sons and one daughter.
- \* Hosea and Gomer's three children are appropriately named by God as signs to Israel.
  - \* Zereel - "God Scatters."
  - \* Lo-Ruhamah - "Not Pitied."
  - \* Lo-Ammi-"NotMyPeople."
- \* His ministry extended over half a century, and he lived to see the fulfillment of his prophecy in the captivity of Israel.
  
- \* **Chapters:** 14
- \* **Verses:** 197



# PLACE IN HISTORY

"The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, the son of Joash, king of Israel." (Hosea 1:1)

- \* In spite of the fact that Hosea mentions the four kings of Judah first and the one king of Israel last, he was a prophet to the northern kingdom
- \* Since the Tribe of Ephraim is the largest tribe, the Northern Kingdom is referred to as Ephraim.
- \* His ministry spanned the length of
  - \* 4 Kings of Judah (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah)
  - \* The King of Israel, Joash
- \* He was contemporary with one Prophet of the Northern Kingdom, namely, Amos
- \* He was contemporary to the prophets of Judah: Micah and Isaiah



# OVERVIEW

- \* This book is unique in portraying the state of Israel through the personal life and experiences of the Prophet Hosea.
- \* What Jeremiah was to Judah at the time of the captivity of the southern kingdom, Hosea was to Israel, over a century before, at the time of the captivity of the northern kingdom.
- \* Both spoke out of a heartbreaking personal experience.
- \* Hosea's experience was in the home; Jeremiah's was in the nation.
- \* Jeremiah was commanded not to marry; Hosea was commanded to marry a harlot or, as he brutally stated the case, "a wife of whoredoms" ([Hosea 1:2, KJV](#)).
- \* He married Gomer, and she bore him two sons and a daughter.
- \* Afterward she played the harlot again, and Hosea put her out of his home.
- \* But God commanded him to take again this unfaithful harlot, to bring her back into his home, and to love her again.
- \* In effect, God said to Hosea, "Now you are prepared to speak for Me to Israel – Israel has played the harlot, but I love her and will yet bring her back into her homeland."



# OVERVIEW

- \* The main theme of the book is: "Return unto the LORD."

*"Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up." (Hosea 6:1)*

- \* "Return" occurs fifteen times. The book's purpose is to illustrate spiritual adultery as well as faithfulness, forgiveness and love.
- \* The book is structured around five cycles of judgment and restoration, the book of Hosea makes clear its repetitious theme: though God will bring judgment on sin, He will always bring His people back to Himself.

Using metaphors and various images, Israel's sin is exposed:

- \* Lying, Ingratitude, Idolatry, Murder, Insincerity and Covetousness

This book reveals the following attributes of God:

- \* God is Holy (Ch.4-7)
- \* God is Just (8-10)
- \* God is Loving & Gracious (11-14)



# OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

## **I. PERSONAL – The prophet and his faithless wife, Gomer, Chapters 1–3**

- A. Marriage of Hosea and Gomer, the harlot, (Ch.1)
- B. Gomer proves faithless; Israel proves faithless; God proves faithful, (Ch.2)
- C. Hosea commanded to take Gomer again, (Ch.3)

## **II. PROPHETIC – The Lord and the faithless nation Israel, Chapters 4–14**

- A. Israel plays the harlot, (Ch.4,5)
  - 1. Israel guilty of lawlessness, immorality, ignorance of God's Word, and idolatry, (Ch.4)
  - 2. Israel turns from God; God turns from Israel; deterioration within follows, (Ch.5)
- B. Israel (Ephraim) will return in the last days; presently to be judged for current sins, (Ch.6)

C. Israel (Ephraim) could escape judgment by turning to God who loves her (key, Hos 11:8), Chapters 7–12

- 1. Israel (silly dove) turns to Egypt and Assyria, (Ch.7)
- 2. Israel turns to golden calves and altars of sin, (Ch.8)
- 3. Israel (backsliding heifer) turns to land productivity; will be driven from the land, (Ch.9,10)
- 4. Israel turns from God – must be judged; God will not give her up, (Ch.11,12)

D. Israel (Ephraim) will turn from idols to God in the last days, (Ch.13,14)

- 1. Israel will be judged in the present, (Ch.13)
- 2. Israel will be saved in the future, (Ch.14)